

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3661
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E. O. : 11652: N/A

TAGS: BY, RW, PINS, PFOR

SUBJ: ARMED FORCES DAY: MICOMBERO SPEAKS OF PEACE
INTERNALLY AND BETWEEN RWANDA AND BURUNDI

REF: BUJUMBURA A-128, 12/1572; DAR 759; BUJUMBURA 1390
(1972), 02, 268

1. IN SHORT SPEECHES IN KIRUNDI ON OCCASION ARMED FORCES DAY MARCH 7, PRESIDENT MICOMBERO STRUCK BASIC NOTE THAT SECURITY EVERY MURUNDI LIES IN UNITY PEACE, AND NATIONAL PROGRESS. EXHORTED MILITARY AGAINST ANY DISTINCTIONS ON BASIS OF RACE, REGION, OR ETHNIC GROUP. INDICATED THAT IMPORTANT CONCEPT IS NATIONHOOD AND THAT HUTUS HAVE MORE REASON TO TRUST AND FEEL TIES TO TUTSI OF SAME NATIONALITY THAN TO A WHITE MAN.

2. PRESIDENT'S TONE BECAME QUITE ANGRY AT TIMES, BUT RHETORIC WAS APPARENTLY DIRECTED AGAINST COLONIAL SCAPEGOATS WHOM HE ACCUSED OF SOWING DIVISION AND DEATH IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI.

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3. FOLLOWING IS ROUGH RENDERING OF KEY REMARKS ON RWANDA:

" I KNOW KIGALI IS LISTENING TO ME TODAY. LET US UNITE.
WE ARE BROTHERS WHO SPEAK SAME LANGUAGE AND HAVE SAME
CUSTOMS. THE WHITES ARE ALWAYS DECEIVING US AND HAVE
GOTTEN YOU TO KILL THE TUTSIS BECAUSE THEY ARE SO
FEW." DESPITE SOME IMPLIED CRITICISM OF GOR ELSEWHERE IN
SPEECH, FRENCH SUMMARY OF SPEECH IN NEXT DAY' S GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION BULLETIN ELIMINATED ALL CRITICISM OF GOR AND
EMPHASIZED COMMON ELEMENTS TWO COUNTRIES' HISTORY,
INCLUDING RECENT OVERTHROW OF " ANACHRONISTIC MONARCHIES
TO SHOW THAT A MAN' S WORTH IS NOT ACQUIRE AT BIRTH, NOR
IS IT MEASURED BY LENGTH HIS NOSE, BUT BY HIS USEFULNESS

TO HIS COUNTRY." RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOOD RELATIONS LAID
ON BOTH CUNTRIES.

4. MARCH 7 GOVERNMENT NEWS BULLETIN, ON OTHER HAND, ACCUSED
WESTERN PRESS OF MAKING INNOCENT BURUNDI TUTSIS APPEAR
BLOODY CRIMINALS DURING LAST YEAR' S BURUNDI EVENTS OF NOW

REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE THAT RWANDAN TUTSIS HAVE BEEN SUFFERING
MASSACRES AND HUT BURNINGS SINCE MIDDLE FEBRUARY. ARTICLE
WENT ON STATE THAT ONLY SMALL MINORITY OF HUTS, ALL KAYIBANDA
SUPPORTERS, HAVE PROFITED FROM COMING OF HUTU RULE TO
RWANDA. " THEIR (GOR' S) CRIMES CRY OUT FOR
VENGEANCE."

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT CONTINUING HIS PUBLIC POSTURE OF
CALM ON RWANDA QUESTIONS SET IN HIS NEW YEAR' S EVE SPEECH
(BUJUMBURA 02). THIS CONTRASTS, OF COURSE, WITH HIS AND
FONMIN SIMBANANIYE' S NOVEMBER PRONOUNCEMENTS (BUJUMBURA 1390),
AND WITH SUCH OFFICIAL MEDIA STATEMENTS AS NOTED
PARA 4 ABOVE. WHILE IT APPEARS GRB HAS FOR MOMENT DECIDED
ADOPT MORE STATESMANLIKE PUBLIC POSTURE AT HIGHER LEVELS,
STRONG ETHNIC FEELINGS AND TURNS OF INTERNAL POLITICS
WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO MILITATE AGAINST STABILITY IN
GRB' S STANCE VIS- A- VIS ITS NEIGHBOR TO NORTH.
YOST

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